

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Today, Congressman Rob Wittman released the following statement after learning of the U.S. Senate's vote to proceed with final passage of their healthcare reform legislation:

"On Monday morning at 1:00am, we witnessed what continues to be a one-sided and closed door process when it comes to reforming our healthcare system. Members from both sides of the aisle agree that our system does need reform, but not in the way of penalties and taxes on our citizens. Never in recent history has something which affects each and every citizen, been crafted by a single party without a true debate and amendment process, and I fear as the bill is referred to a conference committee between the House and Senate, this pattern will continue. The American people deserve better than this process, and I urge my colleagues across the aisle to scrap the current bill and return to the conference table where all voices can be heard and true reform can be enacted."

*Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.*